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Page 7

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Thursday, March 13 - Wednesday, March 19, 2014 | Advertising/Newsdesk: 01235 511700 | www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Woman in line for Britain's Best Volunteer accolade

CHARITY SUCCESS 'IS TEAM EFFORT'

A MUM nominated for a national volunteering award has said the team behind her has been key to her charity's success.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Emma Hall co-founded Stepping Stones in November 2006 with Sharon Smith – both had children with Down's Syndrome.

It initially began as a simple coffee morning, as Fleet mum Emma wanted to meet people in her situation.

Now, seven-and-a-half years on, the Surrey-based charity supports over 100 families who have children with the condition.

And Emma has fought off over 700 others to be in the final five for Britain's Best Volunteer award, organised by charity insurer Markel UK and the Small Charities Coalition.

Emma's daughter Isla, now eight, has the condition. Emma also has another daughter, Niamh, with her husband Dan.

"It's hugely flattering for me for people to appreciate what I do," said Emma. "But ultimately it means people are talking about Down's Syndrome, and it means that people are talking about the people we support.

"They're seeing that our lives aren't doom and gloom and our children aren't suffering at all.

"Our children are having great fun, enjoying times with their friends, the families are getting out and are part of the local community.

"And having a disabled child isn't a negative thing in their lives, it's something that's opened up lots of new possibilities, and created new friendships."

There are nine Stepping Stones trustees, including Emma, and 10 more volunteers who work alongside them.

Indeed, the volunteers have gone on journeys themselves. The charity's parent support worker, according to Emma, could not walk into the first coffee morning, as she was too scared to admit her daughter had the condition.

"And now new families who report back to us say that she is the reason they actually come along and get involved," added Emma.

"We've grown based on what people have asked for – such as training for their schools, activities for the children. It's an enormous resource now and there's definitely power in numbers."

Vote for Emma at www.markeluk.com/britains-best-volunteer. Voting is open until March 21, with the winner announced three days later.

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Head-to-head for charity fundraiser

TWO charity stores in Basingstoke will play host to a fundraising battle between teams from a car rental firm tomorrow.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Staff from Newbury-based Hitachi Capital Car Solutions are taking over children's hospice Naomi House's premises in Church Street in Basingstoke and Chineham Shopping Centre.

The two teams will try and raise as much money as they can for the charity, going head to head against each other in a themed day of 'Store Wars' fun.

Each side has selected a theme – the Chineham team has appropriately gone with Team Yoda, while the Basingstoke outfit, the Memphis Belles, will embrace World War Two.

Staff at Hitachi have also organised raffles, cake sales and dress-down days in the office to further boost the teams towards their £3,000 target.

Robert Wastell, managing director of Hitachi Capital Car Solutions, said: "The teams are fully committed to smashing through their target of £3,000 as we help Naomi House on their way to raise £4m for their Caterpillar Appeal."

Tina Starbuck, corporate fundraiser at the charity added: "Naomi House and Jacksplace are so important to children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions from across central southern England.

"Their families rely on our care and support, and we promise to be there for them for as long as they need us.

"We couldn't do this without the help of local companies like Hitachi Capital coming in and taking part in initiatives like store-wars helps us massively."

The funds will be put towards the hospice's target of raising £4m to refurbish facilities.

They have also been given a major boost from locally-based Balfour Trust, who has donated £25,000 to the cause.

Deputy chief executive, Mark Smith said: "This significant donation from The Balfour Trust is a superb start to our appeal and has really kick-started our fundraising efforts."

"A loving and caring boy"

THE family of a boy who was killed last week after being hit by a lorry in Hartley Wintney have said he was "a fantastic brother and the best son a parent could ask for".

Jack Brown, 15, was involved in an incident with the lorry at around 12pm on Monday, March 3.

No-one has been arrested in connection with the death of the Frimley teenager.

A family statement read: "Jack was a loving and caring boy who was adored by all his family.

"His energy and humour touched everyone that met him. He was a fantastic brother and the best son a parent could ask for.

"We miss you Jack, with all our hearts, and you will never be forgotten."

· **Jack Brown**

Mobile unit described as "major success"

BASINGSTOKE hospital has hailed the rental of a mobile endoscopy unit last year as a major success.

The move was taken to increase service levels at the hospital due to the increased demand for patient care.

The mobile suite was provided by Vanguard Healthcare and installed on the site in February 2013.

It gave the hospital the additional capacity required to treat nearly 1,800 patients.

Kathy Barton, the hospital's clinical services manager, said: "Managing such a high volume of patients was essential if we were to develop our endoscopy facilities and ultimately achieve JAG accreditation.

"However we were not willing to compromise our high standard of patient care, hence the decision to use a mobile endoscopy suite.

"This allowed us to deliver the same level of service of that in the hospital.

"The success was definitely in the planning. A pre-contract meeting with the Vanguard team helped detail exactly what was required, enabling us to set a realistic and achievable timescale in which to complete the project.

"As a result we experienced very few complications and the positive feedback in the patient comment books were testimony to its success."

· **The mobile unit**

News Bites

Thieves steal cash from van

POLICE in Basingstoke are appealing for information after thieves stole £3,000 from a van in a car park.

The offenders broke into the vehicle, which was parked in the area next to Airkix centre at Basingstoke Leisure Park, at around 10.15am on March 4.

PC Alex Hall said: "I am keen to speak to anyone who was using the leisure park at the time and saw anyone acting suspiciously or a vehicle which looked out of place."

Anyone with information should ring PC Hall on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Drugs raid leads to man's arrest

A 30-year-old man has been charged with drug offences after the Basingstoke Safer Neighbourhoods team found money and drugs equipment at his home.

Officers stormed the address on Kings Road at around 6pm on Friday, March 7 following a tip-off from the public.

Once inside the property, officers found a large amount of money and drugs paraphernalia.

The man is set to answer charges of being concerned in the supply of Class B drugs and possession of criminal property.

Theme set for Mayor's concert

THE Mayor's Spring Concert is just over a week away, and this year will boast a round-the-world theme.

Basingstoke in Union will raise money for the Sebastian's Action Trust - Bluebells and the Mayor's community foundation trust

The show takes place next Saturday at The Anvil, and will feature a plethora of musical talent from around the borough.

Tickets cost £11 for adults, £8 for under 16s and concessions. Call 01256 844244.

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Community projects set for funding boost

TWO community areas around Basingstoke have received a combined £280,000 boost from the county council.

Hampshire County Council has given £80,000 towards extending and refurbishing the Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council hall.

More specifically, the money will be used for a new entrance lobby, meeting rooms and toilets.

The extension would provide safer operating space for the Pre-School and enable the hall to be used by other groups while the Pre-School is open.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Cllr Keith Chapman, HCC executive member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside, said: "I am pleased to be able to award this grant.

"The Parochial Church Council plans to upgrade the hall to increase capacity and provide modern facilities, including for disabled users.

"A safer environment will be created for the young children using the site and an upgrade would reduce heating and lighting costs."

Last year, HCC set aside £1million to support some major community building projects.

This is a one-off fund, and invited community groups to submit an expression of interest for a grant of up to £200,000.

Of these, six have been awarded grants of varying amounts up to £200,000.

One of these is the community and recreation centre in Micheldever, where the money will go towards the replacement of the wooden sports pavilion and toilets.

A new brick extension will house toilets, two changing rooms, showers and additional multiuse facilities.

The wall of the changing rooms will be moveable so the space can be turned into a larger area for other activities, including band practice.

A medium sized club room will be incorporated into plans so it can be used by smaller groups.

Cllr Chapman added: "After visiting the project, it became apparent to me that the proposals for the centre would not go ahead without a grant of £200,000 from the county council.

"Of all the places I visited, this was the place most in need of our support."

Sandbags to stay despite better weather

RESIDENTS in Basingstoke and across Hampshire who have put up sandbags in order to protect their property from flood damage have been advised not to move them just yet.

This is despite an improvement in the weather and the groundwater in previously severely affected areas.

With water levels still high, any shift in the weather would risk further flooding, adding to the misery people in areas such as Buckskin have already suffered from the record-breaking rainfall.

Meanwhile, county council chiefs have welcomed the government's admission that more money is needed to help repair roads damaged by the overflowing waters.

Councillor Seán Woodward, HCC's executive member for Environment, warned the full extent of the damage had not yet been assessed as many parts of Hampshire's road networks are still under water because groundwater levels have not fallen.

He said: "We don't yet know what Hampshire's share of the £140million national funding is.

"But our estimate is that, to fix the extensive winter damage on Hampshire's roads, it would cost between £25m and £36m.

"We have 5,280 miles of road in Hampshire to take care of – many of which have suffered prolonged flooding while all of Hampshire has experienced extremely heavy rainfall over many weeks."

First World War artworks to go on display

A BASINGSTOKE museum is set to display a selection of artworks created by soldiers who served in the First World War.

The Sainsbury Gallery of the Willis Museum in Basingstoke Market Place is one of three in Hampshire to show works by members of the Artists Rifles Regiment.

Over 60 works of art will be on display at the Artists Rifles exhibition from July 5 until September 27 – many of which have been loaned by the UK's leading museums and art galleries.

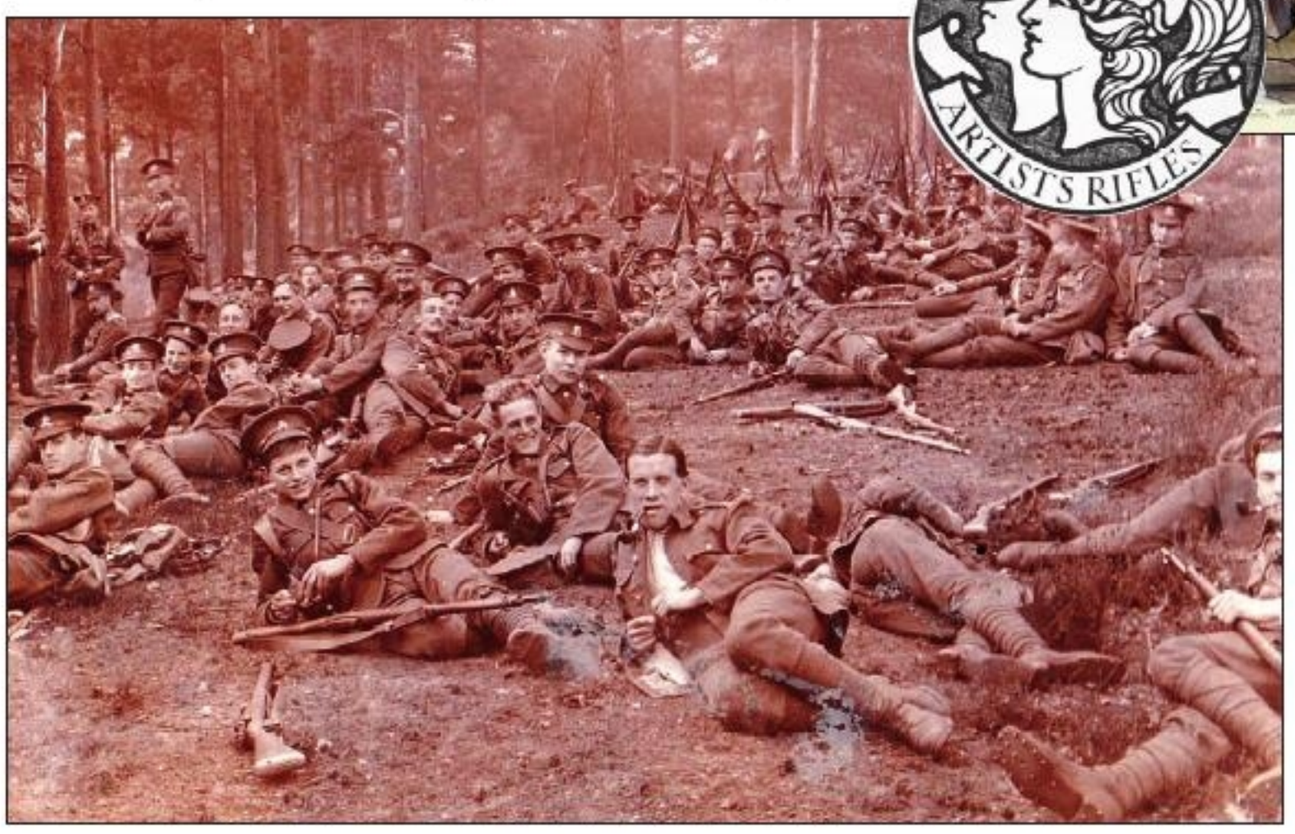
It follows the material being displayed at Southampton City art gallery (April 4 until June 28) and precedes the show at Gosport's Discovery Centre (October 4 until December 27).

The exhibition will also feature objects loaned by the regiment, such as uniforms, medals and other memorabilia.

It will focus on a wide range of the regiment's work before, during and after the Great War, including paintings, sculptures, postcards and cartoons, as well as readings from poems and letters.

The regiment was created in 1860. More information can be found at www.bighteme.org.uk.

• Works from the Artists Rifles regiment set to go on display



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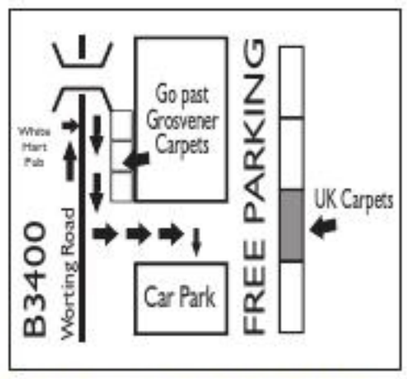

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Local freerunners take on Jamaican superstar

Belt up and stay safe...

HAMPSHIRE police this week are taking part in a Europe-wide campaign to clamp down on drivers not wearing seatbelts.

Motorists not wearing a protective belt will be slapped with a fine of up to £500.

Hampshire's road safety officer, Sergeant Rob Heard said: "The campaign has been launched because research has shown that failure to wear a seatbelt is one of the main reasons why people die in road crashes.

"A recent national roadside survey showed on average 95 per cent of people use a seatbelt but that's still 5 per cent too many who aren't.

"They are putting themselves and others in real danger.

"There are a few exceptions for people in certain circumstances but for the vast majority it's essential they belt up to stay safe and avoid a hefty fine. Drivers also need to realise it's their responsibility to make sure children under 14 wear a seat belt or use a suitable child restraint.

"We will be handing out suitable advice and fixed penalty notices to those we see breaking the seatbelt law this week."

· Yohan Blake and runners from Basingstoke's 3RUN Evolution Academy

A BASINGSTOKE freerunning school has teamed up with one of the fastest men in the world as part of a new holiday company video.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Runners from 3RUN Evolution Academy, based in Houndmills, filmed a Thomson Cruises promotional sequence with Jamaican superstar Yohan Blake.

Blake, the second fastest man to have ever lived, is the current Olympic silver medallist.

The video was shot in Kingston, Jamaica, and saw the free runners race against Blake, who, perhaps unsurprisingly, won with ease.

The runners have worked on blockbuster Hollywood films such as Casino Royale and more recently World War Z.

Chase Armitage, CEO of 3RUN and Director of Dream Runners said: "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with Yohan Blake, let alone race against him.

"Despite running at top speed with a head start, Blake sped past us, so it's certainly clear to see why he is the second fastest man in the world."

It was not the first time the runners have teamed up with Thomson – the two joined forces for last year's promotional video Platinum Parkour, which featured freerunning on boats in the ocean.

Blake is only surpassed by his legendary Jamaican sprinting partner Usain Bolt.

He is the current world champion over 100m, and holds the joint second-fastest ever time over the distance of 9.69 seconds, a record he shares with American Tyson Gay.

Helen Caron, managing director of Thomson Cruises, said: "We are thrilled that Yohan Blake made a cameo appearance in Dream Runners, to help us illustrate to customers the delights his fantastic home country of Jamaica has to offer.

"Having an Olympic medalist and being the second fastest man in the world, for him to have a cameo in our film surpassed our expectations.

"It was great teaming up with 3RUN again and this action packed film really highlights the many stunning attractions our guests can visit."

Sports grant given council funds boost

BASINGSTOKE'S future sporting stars received the Mayor's seal of approval at a special reception ceremony this week.

Councillor Dan Putty presented the £7,500 funding towards Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC)'s sport grant aid scheme.

BDBC has invested £165,000 in the scheme in the last 25 years.

Cllr Putty is delighted with the depth of sporting talent that is currently based in Basingstoke.

He said: "It's heartening to see such a wealth of sporting talent coming up in the borough.

"I'm sure that many of these athletes will go on to achieve the highest honours in their chosen sports.

"We are proud of their achievements so far and I hope that these grants will help them aim even higher."

The reception came just after this year's Basingstoke and Deane Sports Awards on February 28.

Golfer Justin Rose was crowned Basingstoke Sports Personality of the Year.

The 33-year-old triumphed at last year's US Open.

Twelve representatives from the borough have been shortlisted for the Hampshire and IOW Sports Awards in April.

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Police issue scam warning

BASINGSTOKE residents are being urged to stay on their guard for potential phone scams after two elderly men were targeted by fraudsters.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

The men each received a call from someone claiming to be a Metropolitan Police officer.

The 'officer' told the men someone was in custody for cloning their bank cards.

They were asked for personal details and told to hang up the phone and call their bank.

When the victim has picked up the phone to call the bank, the original caller hasn't hung up the phone and has therefore stayed on the line - it is the offender whom the victim speaks to and not the bank.

The victims reported the incidents to the police and therefore no money was stolen in these cases.

In previous incidents victims have continued to speak with the fraudster, and are told to withdraw large sums of money from their accounts which will be collected by a courier, or they are told to hand over their bank cards to the courier.

People have lost large sums of cash as a result of this fraud as often the elderly and vulnerable are targeted.

PC Christian Lavin said: "We want to warn residents that these requests are not genuine and that no police officer or bank would operate in this manner. Anyone who receives a suspicious call is urged not to give any details to the caller and report the matter to the police immediately.

"Any courier companies or taxi drivers that may have been asked to pick up such packages in the area are also urged to report this to police.

"If you have elderly relatives, friends or neighbours please make them aware of this scam and remind them not to give any details to unexpected callers.

"Remain alert and if you see them being approached by unexpected visitors please check who they are and ensure they are a legitimate caller."

Solution found for flooded road

HAMPSHIRE County Council's Highways have been thanked by villagers in Litchfield, near Whitchurch, and north west Hampshire MP Sir George Young.

Engineers have been praised for their work to build an elevated road over the top of flood water that had made the only road in and out of the village impassable.

Litchfield was cut off due to surface water and ground water flooding on the C67 Newbury Road.

In some places the water across the road reached nearly three feet deep.

Flooding could continue to be a problem in the coming weeks, with ground water levels potentially set to rise.

The county council started work on a temporary elevated road on February 24, with the road opening after five days.

Sir George said: "The lack of access to the village due to flooding had been a growing concern for Litchfield residents and I was keen to see a resolution found.

"I am sure they are all relieved to see that Hampshire County Council has implemented a solution, which means the road can remain open even with fluctuating water levels.

"I would like to thank the Council for taking action to reconnect the village allowing residents to go about their daily lives."

Cllr Seán Woodward, executive member for Economy, Transport and Environment, said: "With the only road to Litchfield being impassable, it was clear to us that we had to find a way of re-opening access to the village.

"The solution we came up with was to construct an elevated road allowing traffic to flow no matter the water levels on the highway below.

"We made every effort to get this built as quickly as possible and I am pleased that the village was open for business as usual by the weekend."

The innovative engineering solution has been used twice before in the county; most recently to re-open the B3049 Andover Road in Winchester during the current floods and before that, 14 years ago in Ropley to keep the A31 open to traffic.

Charity gets divers to take leap of faith

BASINGSTOKE'S indoor skydiving centre is set to offer 80 adrenaline junkies the chance to simulate a 24,000-foot dive – all with the aim of raising money for diabetes research.

This Saturday, Basingstoke Airkix – along with its other centres in Manchester and Milton Keynes – is looking to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

Each skydiver will get to experience two flights of one minute each and learn the basic free fall position.

The Basingstoke event has been organised with the help of 10-year-old Emma Bailey, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was three.

Her mother Helen said: "Life now has to be planned and considered on a daily basis in great detail. The lack of awareness of this illness or people's confusion with type 2 diabetes is frustrating.

"By supporting JDRF in funding further research, every penny is leading us closer to a day when we will be able to tell Emma that life will be different."

Four hundred thousand people in the UK live with the condition, including 29,000 children.

Louise Ingham, development manager at JDRF said: "We are incredibly thankful to Emma and the rest of the skydiving team for proving themselves such fearless fundraisers! With help like this, we will move closer to finding a cure for type 1 diabetes."

Op Fortress raid leads to court hearing

THREE people have appeared in court charged with a series of drugs offences after police raids in Popley last week.

A 23-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman from Basingstoke have been charged with being concerned in the supply of class A drugs, and possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

A 29-year-old man of no fixed abode faces similar charges.

All appeared at Basingstoke Magistrates Court last Thursday.

The charges follow an investigation into the supply of illegal drugs as part of the Operation Fortress campaign.

Operation Fortress is a campaign with police and other agencies to reduce the harm of drug-related violence.

One of the aims is to restrict the supply of class A drugs and officers are keen to hear from anyone who is concerned about illegal drugs or drug-related crime in their neighbourhood.

If you have any concerns, call police on 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress.

Do you have a story to share with our readers?

Contact the Newsdesk on **01235 516930**

or email **news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk**

New system benefits hospital care levels

PATIENT care levels have risen in Basingstoke hospital thanks to a new system adopted by doctors.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Emergency staff have teamed up with GPs in the last few months, meaning more people get seen quicker when they are sick or injured.

Emergency nurse practitioners assess every patient on arrival and are able to provide the care needed in a large number of cases.

However, patients who could be better managed by a GP or the emergency team are rapidly routed to the appropriate part of the department, which now includes a resident GP.

Between July and September, 96.4 per cent of patients were seen within four hours – national guidelines being 95 per cent – and this rose to 98.1 per cent between October and December.

Hampshire Hospitals clinical director for unscheduled care, Dr Howard Simpson, said: "We are all extremely pleased with the way the new system at Basingstoke is working and particularly that this contributed to a significant reduction in the amount of time people spent in Hampshire Hospitals' Emergency departments during what are traditionally the more difficult winter months."

Dr Angus Carnegy, a GP from Gillies Health Centre in Basingstoke, said: "Basingstoke already has an excellent out-of-hours system provided by local GPs working for Hantsdoc and the new service builds on this.

"There are many conditions in which GPs are experienced and better placed to provide advice and care for patients, just as there are conditions more appropriate for our emergency colleagues to treat.

"The important thing is that patients make the right choices, go to the right place and see the right clinician for their care."

Dr Sam Hullah, chief clinical officer at North Hampshire CCG added: "We would like to thank the people of North Hampshire.

"This new system at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital would not have been as successful as it is without everyone working together: patients; GPs and emergency care doctors and nurses."

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

Celebrating female apprentices

AN AWE apprentice was "honoured" this week to meet the Deputy Prime Minister to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

Leading employers from across the UK were invited to the reception to promote National Apprenticeship Week hosted at Whitehall by the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

The reception celebrated the work carried out by female apprentices across the country.

Female pupils were invited to the event to hear from young women who decided to embark on the apprenticeship career route.

One apprentice who attended the event to inspire girls was Samantha McRae from AWE.

Samantha, a 21-year-old third-year apprentice, said: "I felt absolutely honoured to be invited to such an amazing event. I never thought I would be going to something like this.

"The AWE apprenticeship scheme has given me real-live skills and knowledge with the future of a great job.

Mr Clegg said: "National Apprenticeship Week gives us a good opportunity to celebrate the fantastic contribution apprentices make to our society."

• Samantha McRae was invited to mark National Apprenticeship Week.

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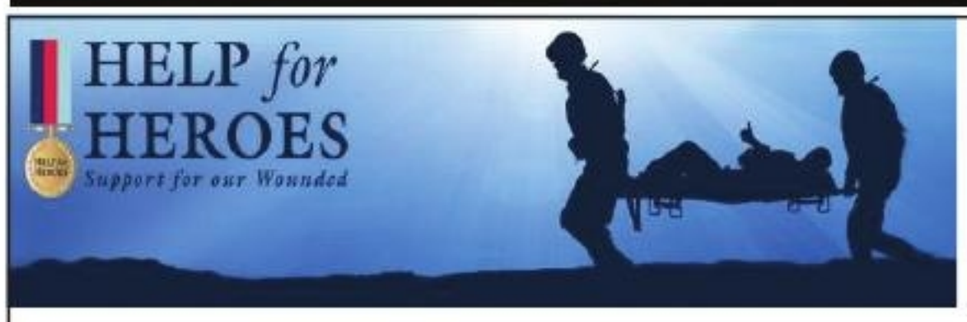

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'Friendliness' is secret to 30 years of success

A HOOK florist is celebrating 30 years in the business with a special gathering next month.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Casa Flora was set up by Jan Budden in 1984, and she was joined by her daughter Paula and another florist.

Paula, 49, who took over the business in 1999, did not have the most profound knowledge of flora.

"I was only 19 – she asked me to come and worked for her," she said. "I didn't know anything about flowers, I knew what a rose was and that's about it!

"But I could drive, so I was the driver."

Jan occasionally helps her daughter out, and will be there during celebration day on Thursday, April 18.

Former workers and regular customers will all convene at the shop to make it a real trip down memory lane.

"Hopefully it will be a quite jolly day, where everyone can have a laugh and a giggle," added Paula.

"Hopefully we won't get too tipsy.

"It might make for some interesting goings-on, but we're used to that here!"

There will also be various charity drives to raise money for Diabetes UK, in memory of the death of a former worker who suffered from the condition.

Paula believes it is the fun and efficient customer service that Casa Flora pride themselves on that has been the secret to their success and longevity.

"We get a lot of repeat people, because we're fun, friendly and helpful.

"And that reflects in our customer base.

"We've had lots of quirky stories – some of them I cannot repeat!"

The business has been on London Road for its entire 30 year life.

However, the premises moved the short distance across from one side of the road to the other after just three years of trading.

This was due to the former building not being conducive to the flowers.

Indeed, 2014 is a double celebration for Paula, who will be ringing in her 50th birthday later in the year.

Find us on Twitter @BasingstokeNews

Learning from our experiences

FOUR members of Sweden's police force have spent three days with officers and staff from Hampshire Constabulary to find out more about a successful multi-agency working approach that is being undertaken in the county.

The Integrated Offender Management scheme helps and manages offenders at high risk of reoffending through a multi-agency partnership approach.

The main agencies involved include the probation service, police, Society of St James, community safety partnerships, and housing providers, aimed at prolific and priority offenders and offenders released from periods of short-term imprisonment.

A similar scheme will be introduced in Stockholm, and officers have travelled to Hampshire to observe how it could benefit offenders and the wider community.

Detective Superintendent Anna Ohlsson, leading the Swedish delegates, said: "We have noticed they have succeeded much more than we have. We wanted to observe and learn their experience[s] and how they have done it and the structure of it.

"We can see it's an area that is similar to Stockholm by inhabitants and crimes and so on. We didn't want to go to an area where it wasn't similar to the one we are working in."

Hampshire Constabulary IOM development manager, Keith Fincham said: "The work that we've undertaken with regard to reducing reoffending and keeping our communities safe through the project has been very rewarding.

"I'm delighted that our colleagues from Sweden have been able to learn from our experiences."

News Bites

In it to win it

ST Michael's Hospice has released the details of their draw from March 7.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 62470 of Basingstoke, while Overton ticket 36747 collects second prize of £100.

Ticket 58503 of Basingstoke is third, winning £50, while 00658 of Overton wins fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen runner-up prizes of £5 are awarded to tickets 00104, 03888, 07928, 10822, 30464, 33610, 48286, 48588, 54383, 58174, 58639, 70279, 70773, 81158, 81288 and 87888.

Top of the charts

TWO areas of Basingstoke and Deane have been named among the top places for London commuters to live.

Country Life has named Overton and Kingsclere among the top 50 areas for people travelling to work in the capital.

Hampshire has three entries on the list, with Winchester being the third along with the two Basingstoke areas.

Competition

YOUNGSTERS in Basingstoke and across Hampshire have until midnight tomorrow to register if they want to be a 'Ranger' for the day.

The Forestry Commission are offering youngsters aged nine to 16 the chance to see for themselves what goes on behind the scenes of preserving the region's woodland.

To enter the competition, tell Forestry Commission England what you love about trees and woodlands.

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New project plants seeds of change

A PROJECT has started in Kingsclere to boost the wildlife in the area.

The Growing2ogether (G2G) Project is a community food growing and training programme largely aimed at people with disabilities.

The £23,000 drive is being led by the Newbury Community Resource Centre, and will look to develop a corner of the Cottismore Park site to boost potential for more insects and reptiles.

The project will lay new paths, which will be suitable for wheelchairs, and install fencing and interpretation boards. Trees and wildflowers will also be planted, and insect hotels, bird boxes and bat boxes will be created.

The work will be undertaken by a mix of the site's staff and volunteers.

The scheme will also create an outdoor classroom with benches. This will be available for existing site users, local schools and groups, and the general public to use and enjoy.

Chief executive of the resource centre, Kelvin Hughes, said: "As well as it improving the environment, the work will benefit the local community in several ways, including education and rest and relaxation. We cannot wait to see it complete."

Paul Taylor, executive director of The Veolia Environmental Trust, added: "The improvements will benefit the local community and wildlife in many ways. I look forward to hearing about its progress."

Michael's up for a new challenge

A YOUNG wine connoisseur is swapping bouquets for bikes later this year to raise money for a cancer charity.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Michael Driscoll works as a sommelier at Tylney Hall in Hook, and will embark on the Macmillan charity bike ride from London to Paris this summer.

The 26-year-old's grandmother died of breast cancer when he was 13, having beaten it once.

"It's the first time I've ever done something like this, and hopefully it won't be the last," said Michael, from Ruislip in London.

"The reason why I chose Macmillan is that my family have been affected by cancer quite a lot over the last 20 to 30 years.

"I just wanted to raise a bit of money to help people who are in that terminal, stage, in order to make their lives as comfortable as possible.

"It was hard for my mum to see my nan at that stage."

He has currently raised over £400 in sponsorship, and is aiming for £1,600 by the time he finishes.

The four-day ride covers about 250 miles, covering all sorts of rough and problematic terrain, before finishing at the Eiffel Tower.

As well as raising much-needed charitable funds, he wanted the thrill of having a fresh challenge to work towards.

"I didn't feel there was a challenge in my life at the moment," he said.

"I'm always spurred on by doing different challenges.

"I have a big love for cycling as well – I'm always out and about cycling.

"So I went online and typed in 'cycling adventures' or 'cycling trips', just to see what was about.

"And then Macmillan came up – London to Paris, sign up now – I thought 'that sounds brilliant'."

General manager at Tylney Hall, Mark Robinson, added: "We are very proud of Michael and we all wish him the very best luck for the ride.

"The work that Macmillan does is so important to the lives of millions of people around the country.

"It's wonderful to hear that a member of our staff is undertaking something so challenging in order to help the charity raise vital funds."

• Michael Driscoll (right) is taking part in this summer's Macmillan charity bike ride

Reservists praised for flood efforts

AUTHORITIES have heaped praise and encouragement on Hampshire's military reserves after their efforts in helping with flood relief work in the county.

Reservists were among hundreds of army and navy personnel providing hands-on assistance in support of the response and recovery efforts to flooding in Hampshire, caused by the highest January rainfall since records began.

Now the county council has joined forces with the local government association to pledge support and encouragement to staff who want to sign up.

Reservists from 7th Battalion The Rifles and HMS King Alfred of the Royal Naval Reserve will be coming to HCC's offices in Winchester to raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits of joining the reserve forces.

Representatives of the forces involved with the flood relief work will visit the council's headquarters today for a reserve service presentation to staff, managers and senior members.

County council leader Roy Perry praised their contribution.

"The military played a significant role alongside local authorities, the Environment Agency and emergency services, and we could not have managed without them," he said.

"Many of those on hand were reservists, and that's why in Hampshire we have put in place a protocol to positively support staff who are reservists in their spare time."

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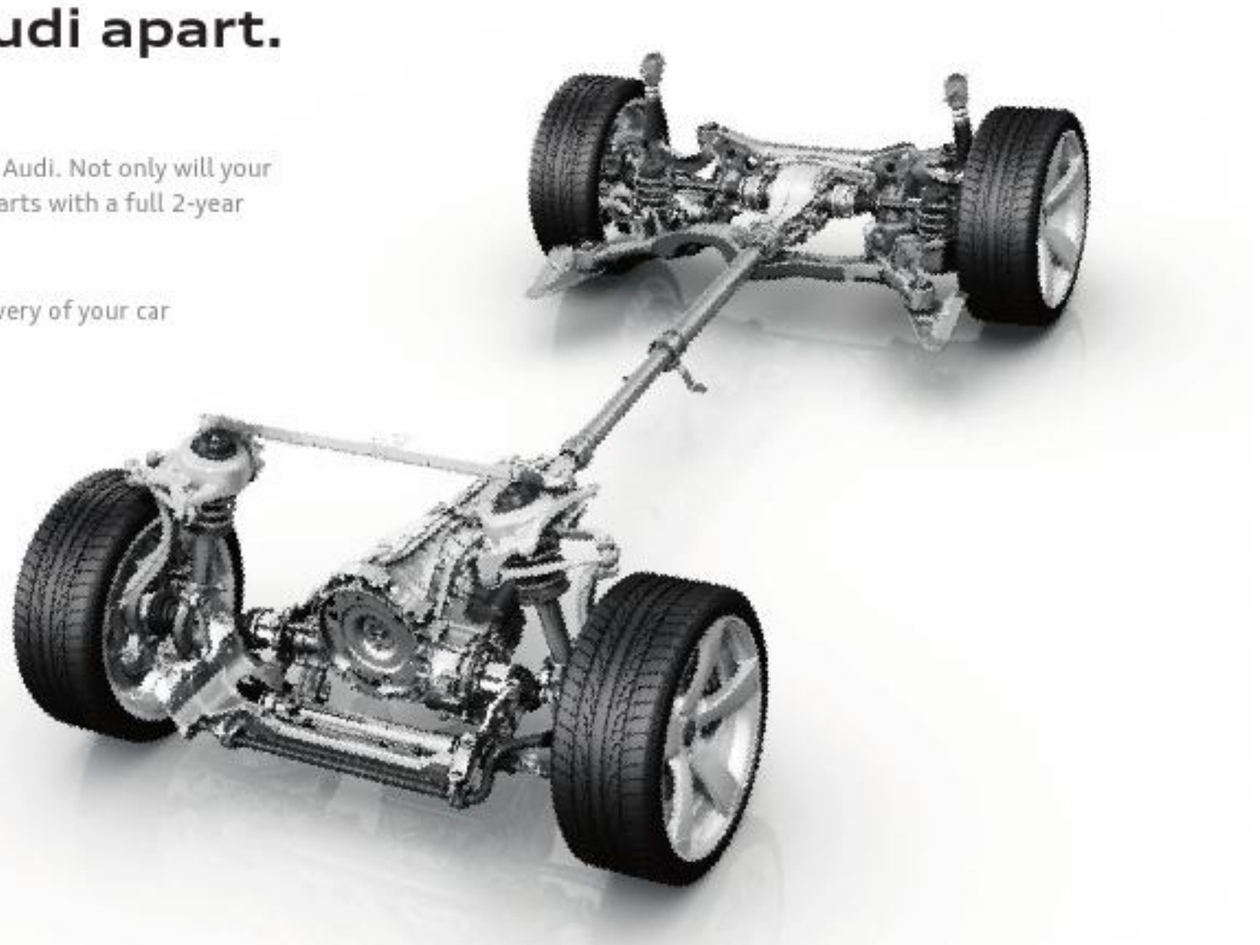

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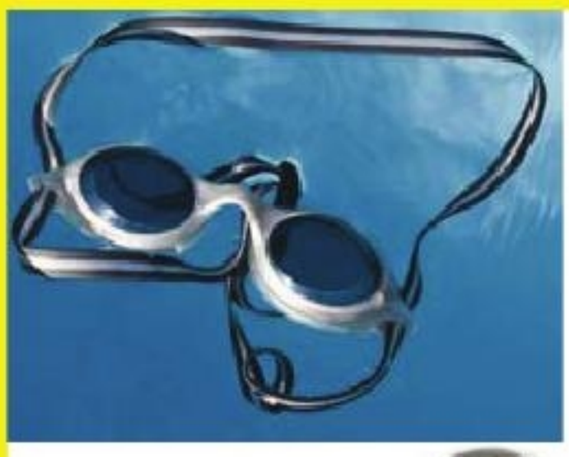

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Strauss concert

TO MARK the 150th anniversary of the birth of Richard Strauss, the Philharmonia Orchestra are staging a concert of his music tomorrow night.

Conducted by Lorin Maazel, the music featured will be 'An Alpine Symphony' and 'Also Sprach Zarathustra'.

The performance begins at 7.45pm, and tickets can be booked through www.anvilarts.org.uk.

Jammin' along

MEMBERS of Basingstoke Blues Club are holding their latest jam night tomorrow, with musicians of all skill levels welcome to come along and join in.

The jam sessions have been running regularly since September 2002, and have proven popular throughout that time.

There is free entry, and starts from 7.30pm at the Moose Centre on Churchill Way. Call Ted on 01256 324313 for more details.

Joel Dommett

STAND-UP comedian Joel Dommett, known for his appearances on BBC3's 'Impractical Jokers' and 'Russell Howard's Good News', comes to the Bordon Phoenix on Saturday.

Tunnels looks to help teens with learning difficulties

A MULTI-SENSORY theatre production for teenagers with profound learning disabilities comes to Central Studio from Tuesday.

Tunnels has been created by theatre company Frozen Light specifically for audiences with multiple learning disabilities, and it takes the audience on an interactive and multi-sensory journey.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

The story follows Lana as she searches for the light that has disappeared from her city, and is enticed into the tunnels by the mysterious Cardini.

Each tunnel appears different from its smell, texture and light, as Lana tries to find her way back up to the city.

It has been co-created by Frozen Light directors Amber Onat Gregory and Lucy Garland, and have utilised the talents of Al Watts to create the original score.

Lucy said: "In the last year we have received so much support, enabling us to create a high quality theatre production for an audience who do not usually have access to the theatre.

Amber added: "This national tour is giving families the opportunity to come to the theatre together for a show that the whole family can enjoy.

"Not only that, it is also appropriate for a teenager with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

"Tunnels is an exciting adventure where Lana searches for the light that has mysteriously disappeared from her city.

"Leaving the place that she calls home, Lana travels deep below the city into an underground world filled with music, smells and curious characters."

The show runs until March 20, and is suitable for 13 to 19-year-olds with learning disabilities.

Six teenagers and helpers can be accommodated for the show, more details of which can be found at www.centralstudio.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01256 418318.

- *Tunnels is staged at Central Studio*

Entertaining Mr Sloane in town

THE story of Kath and Kemp, who live on the outskirts of a rubbish dump whose lives are interrupted by a new lodger, is staged at The Haymarket from Wednesday.

Entertaining Mr Sloane has been staged in London since 1964 and made its touring debut in 2000, and is presented by London Classic Theatre.

A full list of show times and ticket prices can be found at www.anvilarts.org.uk.

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April

Saturday 5th April
Whiteley Shopping Village, Marks and Spencer Superstore Hedge End and Cheesefoot Head!
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 8th April
Portsmouth and Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 10th April
London Museums or The London Eye
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 15th April
The Cotswolds in Spring and Moreton-in-Marsh Market £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 17th April
Marwell Wildlife Park or shopping in Fareham
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

May

Saturday 3rd May
Lymington Market and the New Forest
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 17th May
Weymouth
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Saturday 31st May
The Thames Traveller £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

June

Tuesday 3rd June
Brighton £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 5th June
Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 15th June
Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 28th June
Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

July

Saturday 12th July
Aylesbury and The Vale, The Dunstable Downs and The Great Train Robbery £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 27th July
Bognor or Butlins £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 29th July
Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 31st July
Oxford or Blenheim Palace £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

August

Saturday 2nd August
The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 5th August
Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 7th August
Mystery Seaside Excursion £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 12th August
Stewarts Garden Centre and Christchurch
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 14th August
Hampton Court Palace or Kingston-upon-Thames £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 16th August
Eastbourne including Air Show
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 19th August
Portsmouth World War One Commemorative Event or Southsea £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 21st August
Corfe Castle and Swanage £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Wednesday 27th August
Ringwood Market and Romsey £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Sunday 31st August
Bournemouth including Air Show
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

September
Saturday 13th September
The Fosse Way Flyer
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £22.50 - Child £15.00

Saturday 27th September
Wimborne Market and Poole Quay
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

October

Saturday 11th October
Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £15.00

Saturday 25th October
Lymington and New Forest Drive
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 28th October
Mystery Tour £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 30th October
Notcutts Garden Centre and Guildford
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

November

Saturday 8th November
Westfield Christmas Shopping £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 22nd November
Christmas in London (including Winter Wonderland - Hyde Park) £ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 29th November
Bath Christmas Market
Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December
Brugge Christmas Market
Please remember your passport! (Price includes return Eurotunnel crossings)
Route 'X' - £42.50 per person – (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December
London Christmas Shopping and Lights
£ PRICE BUSTER
Route 'B' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Excursion bookings can be made at:

Toucan Travel Ltd. Unit 18, Chineham Shopping Centre, Basingstoke.
(Debit and credit cards accepted)
Tel: 01256 356631

Toucan Travel Ltd. 18a Mulfords Hill, Tadley.
(Debit and credit cards accepted)
Tel: 0118 981 3238

Shopmobility, Church Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7QQ
(Cash or Cheques only)
Tel: 01256 476066

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for the full guide of what to see and do in Hampshire

Coal Porters

DYNAMIC bluegrass combo The Coal Porters come to The Forge on Sunday, following the release of their fifth studio album 'Find The One'.

The group was formed 10 years ago by former NME cover boy Sid Griffin, who combined with the talents of fiddle player Carly Frey and banjo man John Breese, promising for an entertaining evening of music.

It starts at 7.30pm. For more information, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk.

November Day

THE story of a First World War survivor and an unexpected encounter with a stray dog comes to Central Studio tomorrow.

A November Day is told through evocative puppet characters, live music and a changing set, and is described as a timeless fable on war about the miracle of friendship.

Film and supper

AN INDIAN film and supper night is being hosted by the Pelican Cancer Foundation, taking place at The Ark Conference next Thursday.

British-Asian comedy Jadoo is the film of choice, and tickets will also include a two-course meal as part of the charity's fundraising efforts.

It costs £25, and starts at 7pm. To book, call 01256 314746.

She's back on home soil

BASINGSTOKE'S own singer songwriter Lisbee Stainton is set to perform on home turf, as she comes to The Haymarket on Saturday.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Lisbee's folk acoustic style has seen her become known for her use of a distinctive eight-string guitar, something that has led to her performing as a special guest with Seth Lakeman's band.

And last month, Lisbee visited Queen Mary's College to give song writing workshops to students, as part of Anvil Art's regular work with schools and colleges in the area.

QMC music teacher Simon Barnard said: "Lisbee was a source of inspiration for the students.

"The workshop started off with a superb performance by Lisbee, followed by an introduction on the art of song writing and the importance of getting the listener involved within the first 10 seconds of a song.

"Students were split up into small groups and set the task of writing a verse and chorus of a song.

"They all rose to the challenge with some groups managing to write a complete song.

"This was an excellent workshop which was thoroughly enjoyed by every student who took part.

"The music students of QMC were very lucky to have someone of Lisbee's calibre came along to deliver such a wonderful song writing workshop."

Thomas Parker, one of the students, said: "Even for someone who writes songs regularly, the session drew my interest. It made me think about composition in a new light."

Saturday's show will see 25-year-old Lisbee performing from her newly released fourth album 'Word Games', following on from 'Firefly', 'Girl on an Unmade Bed' and 'Go'.

She will be accompanied with her band, who will play a range of hits from her extensive back-catalogue.

The show starts at 7.30pm, and tickets cost £16. For more details, go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

• Lisbee Stainton visited Queen Mary's College on February 26, ahead of Saturday's show

Artist Paul is set for nature exhibition

BURGHCLERE-BASED artist Paul Harvey will join Ali Lindley and Daphne Ellman for an exhibition of their work at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens in Romsey.

Paul demonstrates his passion for birds and the Art Deco era in his sculptures, showing the beauty and natural movement as well as the style from that period.

The 'Inspired By Nature' exhibition starts from Saturday, and is free to view.

Go to www.hilliergardens.org.uk for more information.

Basingstoke Observer
Reader Travel

Enjoy the glorious colours of the New England Fall, experience the stunning coastal scenery of Cape Cod, and discover fabulous Boston, a city of many contrasts with its rich Colonial past and distinctly European feel, on these great value, fully escorted holidays with 2 fantastic options...

Option One
Fully Escorted Excursions
8 - 18 October 2014
Visiting Boston, Cape Cod, Newport (Rhode Island), the battlefields of Lexington, Salem - the 'Witch Capital of the World', the coast of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, (including Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Cold Hollow Cider Mill and Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks), Stowe and Lake Champlain (including a cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III).
PRICE INCLUDES:
• Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston†
• 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
• 2 nights stay at the Ogunquit River Plantation hotel, Maine with breakfast
• 3 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast
by Air, from £1499pp
†We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 8/10/14

Option Two
Fully Escorted Excursions
25 September - 5 October 2014 and 9 -19 October 2014
Visiting Cape Cod, the Island of Martha's Vineyard, the Pilgrim town of Plymouth (and the Plimoth Plantation), Boston, the battlefields of Lexington, Salem, Newport (Rhode Island), New Hampshire, Vermont and Stowe.
PRICE INCLUDES:
• Return flight from London Heathrow airport to Boston††
• 3 nights stay at the Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis with breakfast
• 4 nights stay at the Best Western Royal Plaza hotel, Marlborough with breakfast
• 2 nights stay at the Holiday Inn Rutland, Vermont with breakfast
11 days by Air, from £1549pp
††We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or the above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27/12/13 and is based upon departure from Heathrow airport on 25/9/14

For more information or to book, please call:
01539 751252 quote BOB
or visit: **www.basingstokeobserver.reader.travel**

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782, ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

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Suffering: Shock? Disbelief? Rejection? Guilt? Anger? Bitterness?
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Feel you've got it together? **BUT**, what about bitterness or resentment?
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WHATEVER STAGE

The workshop helps people have a better understanding of what they are going through.
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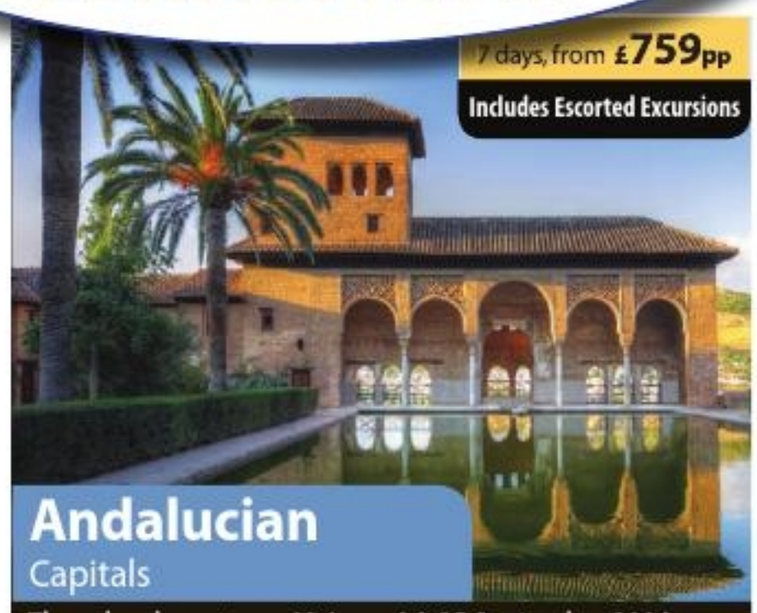
Reader Travel



7 days, from £759pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Andalucian Capitals

Thursday departures, 12 June, 4 & 25 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malaga†
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013 and is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 12 June 2014.

8 days, from £689pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Barcelona and Catalonia

Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

From Gothic to Gaudi, the ramblas to the champlas, in Barcelona there is artistry on every street corner. We'll take you to Montserrat and the Black Madonna, Figueres and the Dali Museum, La Garrotxa with its volcanic gorges, and eleventh century Besalú with its Jewish quarter. All this, and you've still got time to stroll on the beach at Calella on the Costa Brava, visit a wine cava, and the markets at La Boqueria, or just relax in 4-star style.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Barcelona††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay in 4 star Hotel Les Palmeres, Calella with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Barcelona including guided walking tour of the old town, Montserrat and Figueres with admission to the Dali Museum

†† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

6 days, from £689pp
Includes Escorted Excursions

Madrid, Toledo and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†††
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid,with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

††† We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 27 December 2013.

For more information or to book, please call:
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OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
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SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Organised by Omega Holidays. ABTA V4782. ATOL Protected 6083. Single supplements apply. Subject to availability. †Our prices include your flights for which we have allowed a reasonable budget. However, at your time of booking, should the cost of your flight exceed this budget, we reserve the right to charge a supplement, which we will advise you of at this time.

What's on in HAMPSHIRE | LISTINGS

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Description 15 March - 21 April
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey
INSPIRED BY NATURE
Award winning watercolour artist Ali Lindley and internationally renowned acrylic artist Daphne Ellman will once again be exhibiting as 'Inspired By Nature' at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey SO51 0QA from Sat. 15th March till Monday 21st April. Their Guest artist this year is sculptor Paul Harvey www.paulharveysculpture.co.uk
Now in it's 9th year, this Exhibition is one of the first to cheer us after the Winter blues. With their complementary styles… Ali's work reminds me of the art of sowing a wildflower garden. Carefully managed, it can produce swathes of stunning colour as if 'Nature' has taken a hand over many years…seemingly random but with strokes of ingenuity! Whilst Daphne brings all the elements of the countryside…wildlife, plants, even old buildings and rusty machinery… combining colours and textures together , into charming scenes. Authenticity with touches of the whimsical! And it's easy t o see Paul's passion for birds, and love for the Art Deco era, reflected in his sculptures; his work showing at times, the dynamic beauty of natural movement, and others, the blend of grace and style from that iconic period.

13 January - 31 March, 2am - 4am
13 March, 7:30pm
THE HAYMARKET
River Monsters Face-to-Face
Rare opportunity to see Jeremy Wade, the presenter of the global hit television series River Monsters, biology teacher and angler turned seat-of-the-pants explorer.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

14 March, 7:30pm
Central Studio Queen Mary's College
THINGUMAJIG THEATRE PRESENTS A NOVEMBER DAY
a tale about two men, a dog and a war between them. Marking the centenary of the First World War, this play explores the timely question of how we remember.
www.centralstudio.co.uk 01256 418318

14 March, 7:45pm
The Anvil
PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
The Alpine Symphony, scored for a vast orchestra, recounts a mountaineering adventure in entertaining detail.
Also sprach Zarathustra, Strauss's 'homage to Nietzsche's genius', became a hit after film director Stanley Kubrick used it for 2001: A Space Odyssey.
It opens with one of the most striking fanfares in all music, and builds to tremendous climaxes, including the Dance of the Superman, before dissolving into an enigmatic ending, poised uncertainly between two keys.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

15th March - 21st April
Hillier Gardens, Romsey, SO51 0QA
INSPIRED BY NATURE' ART EXHIBITION
x2 Artists & x1 Sculptor
01794369318, hilliergardens.org.uk

15 March, 4:55pm
Farnham Maltings Association
THE MET: LIVE IN HD MASS-ENET: WERTHER
The cast is led by Jonas Kaufmann, singing the title role of the brooding poet opposite Sophie Koch, his unattainable love, Charlotte.
www.farnhammaltings.com

16 March
The Raven Hotel, Hook
PSYCHIC FAYRE
With specially selected unique readers/ Holistic Therapists and stall holders. Come along for a welcoming and Mystical atmosphere.
Admission £2
7939370065

16 March, 7:30pm
The Forge
THE COAL PORTERS
Formed ten years ago by ex-Long Ryder, former NME cover boy Sid Griffin, The Coal Porters comprise two world-class virtuosos in fiddler Carly Frey and banjo man John Breese, and former stand-up comedian in guitarist Neil Herd.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

16 March, 7:30pm
The Anvil
KEN DODD
Come and enjoy his famous Happiness Show and you will be absolutely discumknockerated (that's Knotty Ash for 'over the moon') by a truly tattifelarius (fun-filled) evening of laughter and songs presented by a comedy genius.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

19 March - 23 March, 7:30pm
The Haymarket
ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE
Kath and her elderly father Kemp live in a house on the outskirts of a rubbish dump. Their drab existence is interrupted by the arrival of a new lodger, the enigmatic Mr Sloane. Provocative and sexuallyambiguous, Sloane soon has both Kath and her brother Ed competing for his favours. But all is not as it seems. Behind Sloane's nonchalant demeanour lies a calculating psychopath with a dark and secretive past. Seduction, blackmail and murder lie waiting in the wings.
01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

20 March 7pm - 10pm
The Ark Conference Centre in Basingstoke
INDIAN FILM AND SUPPER NIGHT
Pelican Cancer Foundation is hosting a fundraising event, a private viewing of 2013's critically acclaimed British-Asian comedy Jadoo.
Jadoo is a colourful and engaging food-feud-and-family comedy feature film set in Leicester. It centres on two brothers, both chefs, who fall-out catastrophically and set-up rival restaurants, on opposite sides of the same road.
In an unmissable opportunity, guests will also be joined by a member of the production team who will introduce the film. In keeping with the theme of the evening, tickets also include a delicious 2-course Indian meal.
01256 314 746

20 March, 7:30pm
The Anvil
TOM PAXTON AND JANIS IAN TOGETHER AT LAST
Both Tom and Janis have ties to the classic Greenwich Village folk scene, yet they are nearly a generation apart. They share a slew of folk influences as well as an affinity for fearlessly tackling controversial issues. www.anvilarts.org.uk

21 March, 7:45pm
The Anvil
ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT
The programme features two of Bach's masterpieces, his Double Violin Concerto and Brandenburg Concertos Nos 3 and 6. However, the real gamechanger on the programme is the rare concerto for the now 'extinct' violoncello da spalla, a piece which lay forgotten until as recently as 2004. www.anvilarts.org.uk

22 March - 23 March, 10am - 3pm
Newlyns Farm Shop and cafe
NEWLYNS 10TH ANNIVERSARY LAMBING WEEKEND
Newlyns Farm Shop and Café will be celebrating their tenth anniversary with a lambing weekend on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March. Opening times are 10am to 3pm and entry cost is £3, children under 3 free. There will be lots to do and see including feeding the lambs, sheep racing, sheep dog displays and a hog roast and barbecue. The shop will be re-opening after extensive refurbishment creating a larger butchery department, an extended delicatessen counter and larger farm café.
01256 704128 www.newlyns-farmshop.co.uk

25 March, 7:30pm - 9pm
Church Cottage, Basingstoke
BASINGSTOKE HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
. Andrew Benson-Wilson, founder chairman of the society will talk about the founding of the society and the issues it has faced over the past 25 years. Bill Fergie, who was Director of Planning at that time, will talk about the planning issues he faced 25 years ago. free parking after 7pm, and level access
www.bas-herit-soc.org

29 March - 30 March, 10am - 4:30pm
The Studio, Westlea, Tower Hill, Dummer, Basingstoke, RG25 2AL.
WEEKEND ART COURSE WITH KIRSTIN WHITE
Ideal for the complete beginner artist, or indeed anyone seeking a better command of watercolour painting and of picture making in general, this course will introducing the student to watercolour painting technique, visual thinking and some picture making essentials, such as creativity, composition and colour theory. Only £97
www.kirstinwhite.co.uk 01489 690303

8 April, 7:45pm
St Peter's Church Hall, Church Road (B3350), Earley Reading
BERKS GP OF HARDY PLANT SOCIETY
A talk by Hilary Newman on Climbers and wall plants.
www.berkshirehps.org.uk

Purple Fairy Psychic & Holistic Fair
Sunday 16th March 2014
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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

4			7	2		6	1	
		7	3		4		2	
	5	8	1			3		
6	8			3	5			7
9		5				2		6
3			2	6				8
		4			2	5	8	
	1		5		9	4		
	2	6		8	3			

	7	4		5		1	9	
	6		2		1		7	
3	5						1	2
8		6				3		9
7	4						5	6
	1		9		6		3	
	8	5		4		2	6	

		8					9	4
3			7				1	
	1	5	8			6		
	7		3					
1								2
					2		5	
		9			3	5	7	
	3				9			8
4	6					9		

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 One who does not believe in God (7)
5 Alter (5)
8 Chase (4)
9 Illumination (8)
10 Sports events (8,5)
13 Type of material (4)
14 Labels (4)
17 Anniversary (6,7)
19 Sign (8)
20 Always (4)
21 Meeting (5)
22 Young swans (7)

Quick Clues Down

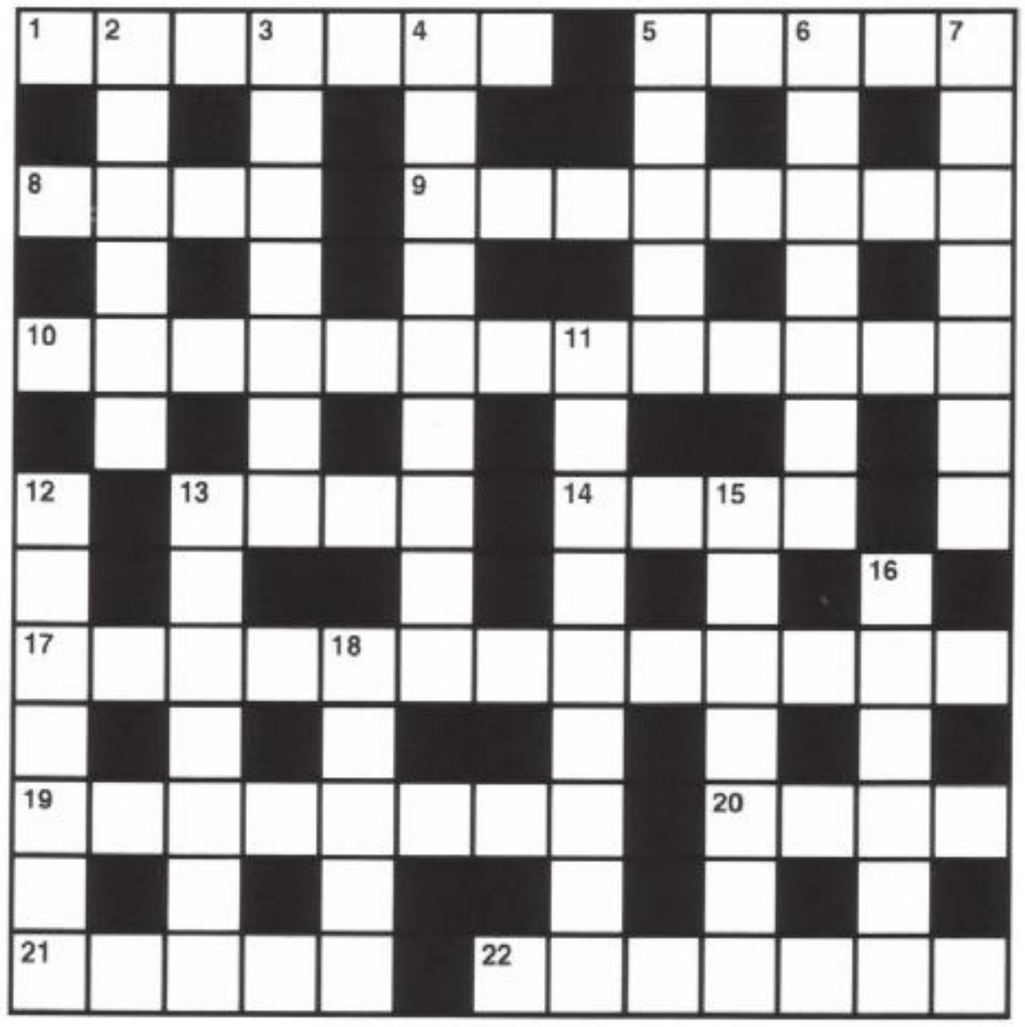
2 Digits (6)
3 Give a right to (7)
4 Lawyer (9)
5 Clear upper air (5)
6 Shows (7)
7 Summaries (7)
11 To a very great degree (9)
12 Cut into pieces (7)
13 Misrepresent (7)
15 Small fish (7)
16 Purpose (6)
18 Strive (5)

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Associate with a queen (7)
5 Tower for a child with a following of fifty (5)
8 Resting place for a Latin song (4)
9 The street to the right has a. direct connection (8)
10 Did not cheat at football, for example (6,3,4)
13 A small room in Arabia (4)
14 Gives information about gratuities (4)
17 The devil is right in the place for the show (13)
19 Rode to be able somehow to deter (8)
20 But do excellent kings have pretensions? (4)
21 Heaps to form (5)
22 Develops former cares (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Nothing is clear about the medium's revelation (6)
3 Roamed, or remained about the head of the river (7)
4 The population shows indignation about the individual's instincts (9)
5 Slow down and break out (5)
6 Those with no choice (7)
7 Allow the rest to go round for the mail (7)
11 Exhorted nothing about departing from established doctrine (9)
12 The Caribbean islands take centigrade as their pointers (7)
13 In the morning I moan about the gas (7)
15 Have a shot at the tiger's head with time to make a stew (7)
16 Or in the overturned earth it will be hot (6)
18 Pleasant to have an Eastern relative (5)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

5	2	3	9	1	6	8	7	4
8	9	7	5	4	3	1	2	6
6	4	1	7	8	2	9	3	5
1	6	9	4	3	8	2	5	7
7	5	8	2	6	9	4	1	3
2	3	4	1	7	5	6	9	8
3	7	2	8	9	4	5	6	1
4	1	5	6	2	7	3	8	9
9	8	6	3	5	1	7	4	2

9	8	4	5	7	2	6	1	3
1	3	7	9	6	4	2	5	8
2	6	5	1	3	8	4	7	9
7	5	8	4	9	3	1	2	6
6	1	2	8	5	7	9	3	4
3	4	9	2	1	6	7	8	5
8	7	6	3	2	9	5	4	1
5	9	3	7	4	1	8	6	2
4	2	1	6	8	5	3	9	7

9	4	5	8	3	2	6	7	1
7	1	6	5	4	9	8	2	3
8	3	2	7	1	6	9	5	4
6	8	4	1	2	7	5	3	9
3	5	7	9	6	8	1	4	2
1	2	9	4	5	3	7	8	6
2	7	8	6	9	4	3	1	5
5	9	3	2	7	1	4	6	8
4	6	1	3	8	5	2	9	7

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Slurred 5Larks 8 Edit 9 Madrigal 10 Introspective 13 Asti 14 Else 17 Transgression 19 Straight 20 Iron 21 Sum up 22 Planter

Down: 2 Lading 3 Retorts 4 Enmeshing 5 Lyric 6 Ragtime 7 Solvent 11 Elemental 12 Attests 13 Anagram 15 Session 16 Morose 18 Skimp

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Informs 5 Vests 8 Stet 9 Redolent 10 German measles 13 Emit 14 Bard 17 Imponderables 19 Isabella 20 Iris 21 Gangs 22 Asphalt

Down: 2 Nether 3 Optimum 4 Marinated 5 Viola 6 Shelled 7 Satisfy 11 Embarrass 12 Writing 13 Explain 15 Rubbish 16 Venial 18 Need

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Mothers Day
March 30th

Give Mum a morning to savour

IT MAY be the one time of year when mothers get to be waited on by their offspring, so why not start Mothering Sunday as you mean to go on with a lovingly prepared brunch or breakfast in bed?

With Dad taking charge in the kitchen, there are plenty of easy chores the little ones can tackle while Mum gets a well-deserved lie-in. And learning how to cook could have a positive impact on fussy young eaters as well.

Children's cookery expert Annabel Karmel says: "Tasks such as cracking eggs and stirring are well within the capabilities of a young child and it is amazing how being involved in the planning and preparation of a meal can stimulate a child's appetite."

When it comes to cooking with your kids, Karmel recommends picking recipes that lead to quick results as children have short attention spans.

By **Diana Pilkington**

"To start with, choose recipes that are simple enough for your child to make without too much help from you, then you can build up a repertoire of recipes they feel confident doing by themselves," she says.

Karmel's safety tips for cooking with kids

- Always make sure children wash their hands before doing any cooking.
- Never use wet hands to turn on a switch or pull out a plug.
- If they need to stand on a chair to reach the work surface, make sure it's very stable.
- Explain about heat and the dangers of steam, hot pans and hobs.

Now try one of these these yummy brunch recipes to make mum smile...

Devilled mushrooms

(Serves 1)
25g butter
150g chestnut mushrooms, sliced
2-3 drops Worcestershire sauce
¬°tsp Dijon mustard
3tbsp creme fraiche (low fat is fine)
1 muffin, split and toasted
1tsp fresh chopped parsley (optional)

Melt half the butter in a medium frying pan. Add the mushrooms and saute over a high heat for 6-8 minutes until the mushrooms are golden. Stir in the Worcestershire sauce and mustard. Remove from the heat and stir in the creme fraiche.

Sit the muffin on a plate, spread with the remaining butter toasted side up, and spoon over the mushrooms. You can sprinkle with a little choppedparsley if you like.

Breakfast bear pancakes

(Serves 1)
125g self-raising flour
1 egg
125ml milk
4tbsp creme fraiche
1tsp vanilla extract
3tbsp maple syrup
20g butter
2tbsp vegetable oil
Fresh fruit, to serve (optional)

Chop up your fruit - thinking about what might work for your pancake bear's ears (banana), eyes (blueberries), arms (strawberries) and feet (kiwi) - be as creative as you like!

Put the flour in a large bowl. Whisk together the egg, milk, creme fraiche, vanilla, maple syrup and a pinch of salt. Add this mixture to the flour and whisk to make a batter (there may be a few small lumps, but don't worry).

Melt the butter in a large non-stick frying pan and tip it into a small bowl.

Mix 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the batter. Use the rest to grease the pan. Drop 2 tablespoons of batter into the frying pan and cook the pancake for 2 minutes until brown underneath and just set on top (with small bubbles).

Flip over and cook for a further 1-2 minutes until golden and cooked through.

Lay one pancake slightly over the other - decide which will be the head and which will make the body and decorate with your fruit.

For more family recipes download *Annabel Karmel's Essential Guide to Feeding your Baby and Toddler* **available on iTunes and Google Play for £3.99**

Annabel Karmel's Devilled Mushrooms (Above) and Breakfast Bear Pancakes (left).PA Photo/ Annabel Karmel

Mothers Day Sunday 30th March 2014

STARTERS
Freshly Prepared Cream of Tomato & Basil Soup (V)
Prawn Cocktail with Brown Bread and Butter
Garlic Field Mushrooms topped with a Blue Cheese Crust (V)
Caesar Salad, Little Gem, Anchovies, Croutons & Parmesan
Chicken Liver parfait served with plum chutney & wholemeal toast

MAIN COURSES
Roast Topside of Beef served with Yorkshire pudding and Gravy
Honey Roasted Gammon Ham served with Parsley Sauce
Poached Fillet of Salmon with Spinach and Hollandaise
Pan Fried Breast of Chicken served with a Forestiere Sauce
Mediterranean Vegetable Wellington with Pesto Cream (V)

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FRESH from prison, framed for a crime he didn't commit, street racer Tobey Marshall (Breaking Bad's Aaron Paul), is hell bent on settling the score.

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Based on the most successful racing game franchise of all time, bursting with explosive action and exhilarating stunts, NEED FOR SPEED accelerated into cinemas on MARCH 12, 2014.

WIN GOODIES!

To help you enjoy this action packed film even more we have a fantastic prize package available. 3 lucky readers will win a merchandising pack that includes a T-Shirt, USB stick, I Pad case, Steering Wheel Keyring and Tyre Clock.

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Friday, March 28, 2014

To be in with a chance of winning one of these packs all you have to do is answer one simple question:

Q: What award winning TV show starring Aaron Paul has recently finished after 5 series?

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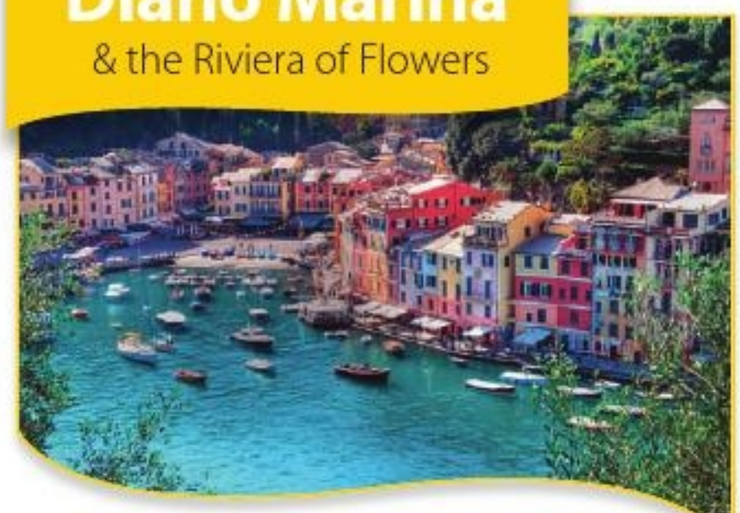
Basingstoke Observer

Reader Travel

European Holidays by Air

By AIR from Gatwick airport

Diano Marina
& the Riviera of Flowers



Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014
From Gatwick airport

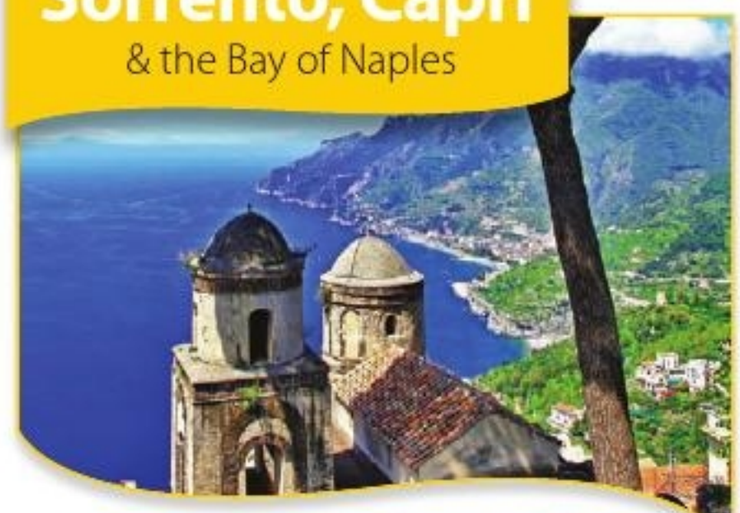
Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name…savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Piccolo Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
  An upgrade to the **4 star Hotel Metropol**, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement.
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£819pp**

Price based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/9/14

Sorrento, Capri
& the Bay of Naples



Departing July - October 2014
From Gatwick airport

This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay. We invite you to discover the beautiful medieval city of Sorrento, which overlooks the magical waters of the Bay of Naples, allowing panoramic views of the city of Naples, the lovely islands of Capri and Ischia, and the awe-inspiring Mount Vesuvius.

Price includes:
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- 7 nights stay at the **4 star** Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with 3 course evening meal and breakfast
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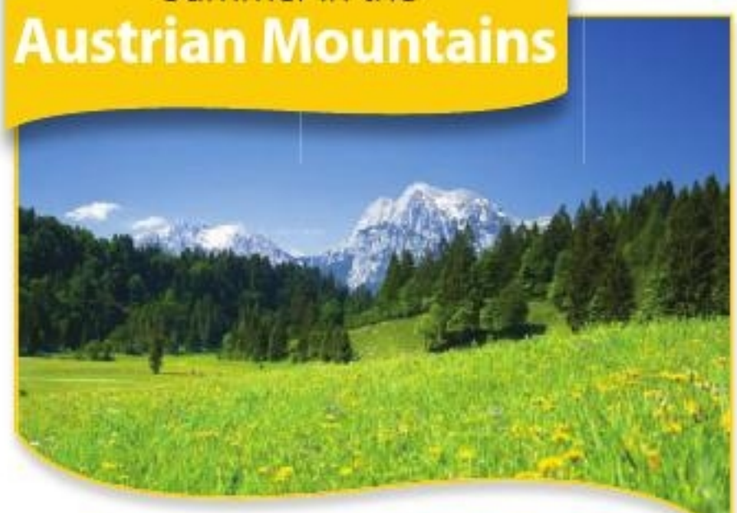
Summer in the Austrian Mountains



Wednesday departures, July - August 2014
From Gatwick airport

Mountain pine air you could bottle and sell, glacier fresh beer, scented meadows, a history of music and mad kings, houses painted as optical illusions – discover alpine Austria with this Omega 8 day break including flights, 4 star hotel, dinner, breakfast and full day excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Basel†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Basel airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Sport Hotel, St Anton am Arlberg** with breakfast and evening meal
- Full day excursion to Oberammergau
- Full day excursion to Lake Constance and Lindau (inc boat trip)
- Half day on scenic high mountain Silvretta highway visiting Schruns and Ischgl

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Price based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 16/7/14

Malta & Gozo
The Idyllic Islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Park Hotel, Sliema** with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
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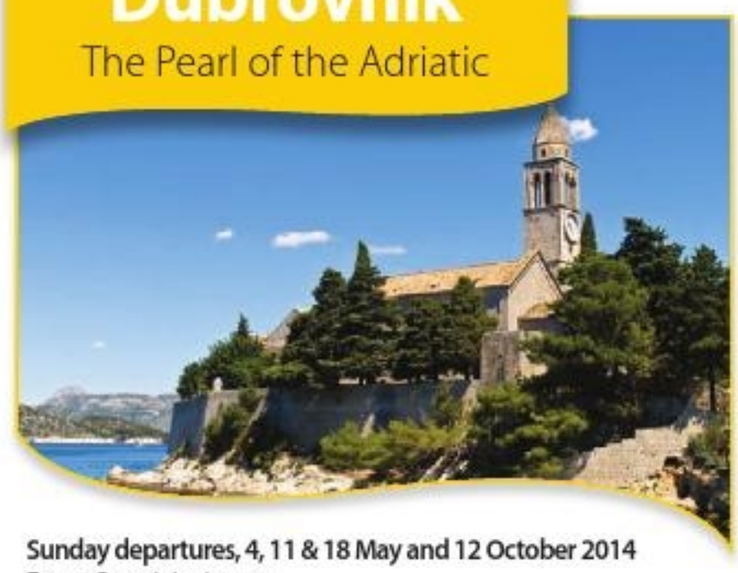
Includes Escorted Excursions — 8 days by **AIR**, from **£749pp**

Price based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14

Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014
From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

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- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
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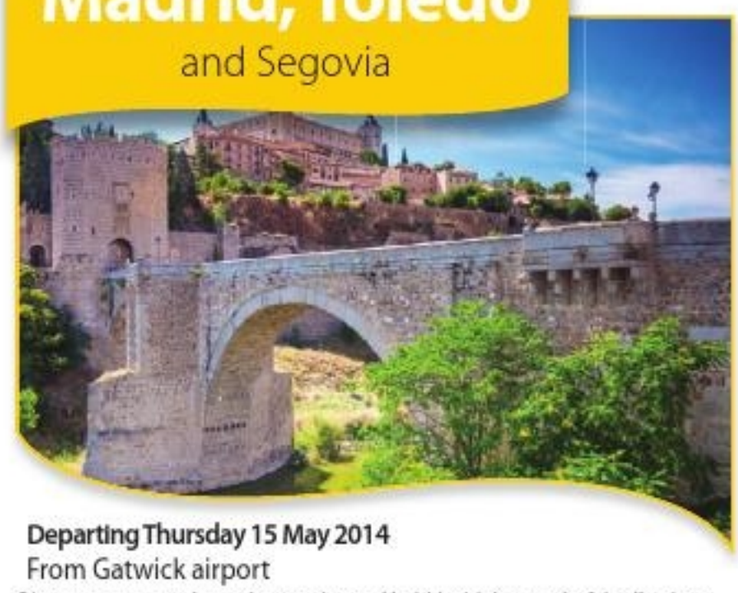
Madrid, Toledo
and Segovia



Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

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†We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 18/2/14.

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Mature and more refined MINI is still highly enjoyable to drive

Maintaining the fun factor

REVIEW: BMW MINI
By **Iain Dooley**

THIRD time is set to be the charm for BMW as it launches a bigger, better MINI with a greater accent on economy, performance and a premium feel.

It might have grown slightly but there's no mistaking the oversize headlights and signature grille - it can only be a MINI.

That's all that's familiar about BMW's third-generation hatchback, though. Underneath the iconic shape lies an all-new platform, engines and transmissions plus an increased focus on delivering an engaging yet refined driving experience.

Facts at a glance

Model: Mini Cooper, from ¬£15,300 on the road

Engine: 1.5-litre petrol unit developing 134bhp

Transmission: 6-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the front wheels

Performance: Maximum speed 130mph, 0-62mph 7.9 seconds

Economy: 62.8mpg

CO2 Rating: 105g/km

And while the new car has grown slightly in all dimensions - it's 98mm longer, 44mm wider and 28mm longer between the wheels - the basic proportions and design cues remain.

Inside the cabin the car's trademark oversize central speedometer has been re-purposed to house the infotainment screen and the traditional key has been ditched in favour of a funky backlit engine start toggle switch.

BMW has blessed the car with (standard and cost-option) technology more commonly found in 'grown-up' cars, such as a neat head-up display, parking camera and a self park function, user selectable electronic damper modes, DAB radio, intelligent cruise control and traffic sign recognition.

The good news extends rewards, as rear seat passengers now have more room - an old Mini bugbear - and the boot is a sensible size.

It's still a bit of squeeze to get in the back but once installed it's noticeably more comfortable, while folding the rear seats further enhances the car's versatility.

Cooper and go-faster Cooper S models make up the range at launch, with the former utilising BMW's new 1.5-litre three-pot petrol motor and the latter a new 2.0-litre petrol unit. All engines are now turbocharged, and significant economy and performance gains have been made across the board.

In popular Cooper guise, the car's new motor puts out a useful 134 horsepower enabling the zero to 62mph sprint in a brisk 7.9 seconds.

Also, power comes in much lower down the rev range, saving you much stirring of the admittedly slick manual gear shift.

And the best news? You can have all this performance while enjoying an official combined economy figure of 62.8mpg and a tax-dodging 105g/km CO2 emissions rating.

It's the same cake-and-eat-it scenario out on the road. The MINI Cooper delivers an engaging driving experience, while at the same time maintaining a high level of comfort and refinement across a wide range of road conditions.

The car's electric power steering gives nothing away in terms of feel and does much to contribute to the previous car's 'go kart-like' sensation that BMW is so keen to maintain, while engine response is right up there with dedicated sports cars.

The three-pot turbo motor even sounds the part, emitting a gruff, purposeful note when you're pressing on. But it's the car's ride and grip levels

• *The new MINI*

that impress most. The combination will flatter less experienced drivers and do much to keep them safe if they inadvertently test the limits of their talents, yet the potential still exists for keen drivers to fully exploit the MINI's playful character.

And unlike it's predecessor, this third-gen MINI's ride boasts a more supple and mature character, resulting in a vastly more enjoyable experience when encountering poorly surfaced urban streets.

The end result is a fluid ride and enjoyable, confidence-inspiring time behind the wheel.

Verdict:

The important thing to take away from this all-new MINI experience is that, while the car has grown slightly in size, is more refined and comes with all the toys you'd expect to find in more grown-up cars, BMW has ensured that the fun factor remains right at the heart of the driving and ownership experience.

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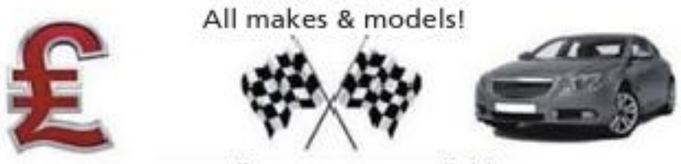

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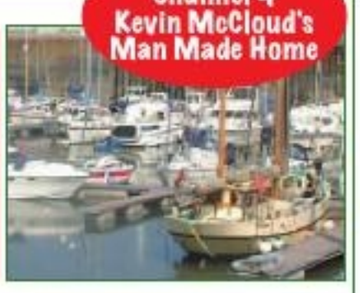

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VANESSA 32yrs single mum, honest, loving, kind hearted, been hurt in the past enjoys music, reading etc, WLTM my very special Mr Right. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409899**

MARIE slim attractive fun brunette, looking for good times with exciting broadminded male. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409707**

CLAIRE young 39 slim size 10, pretty, outgoing, seeks similar spontaneous male for nights in/out and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409417**

64YR old widow, likes most things, seeking kind gent, honest for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 410201**

VICTORIA 39, single mum, seeking male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409755**

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SARAH pretty petite green eyed female, lots of fun, likes children, animals, gym, eating out, running, sports, fast cars, shopping, seeking, nice guy to spend time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408879**

MICHELLE 50, blue eyes, brown curly hair, 5ft 4ins, likes pubs, tv, seeks N/S male for friendship, maybe more. Slough area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409601**

SUE young at heart female, very adventurous and looking for no strings fun with mature man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409251**

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409107**

JOANNA slim attractive blue eyed blonde nurse, divorced with two teenagers, lots of love to give, looking for Mr Right, call me lets put the spark back. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409097**

FLOR beautiful educated European blonde, articulate, seeking similar intelligent well-mannered mature gent to enjoy socialising, conversing and quality times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408293**

CAROL 35yr old self employed nurse, looking for similar lonely male who likes travel, holidays, theatre and most important tlc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409085**

VICTORIA 38 fun loving and single looking for fun times with male, preferably Asian. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408729**

LIZ attractive blonde blue eyed female with no children/ties, loves country living, animals, seeks male companion for holidays, cosy nights and more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408629**

SUSAN 24yr single mum of two, likes nights in/out, walking, swimming, running, WLTM tall, loyal easy going male to end lonely nights and brighten days. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408287**

SOPHIE attractive hard working female, who enjoys dancing and good company, WLTM loving male to enjoy nights out and genuine laughter. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408625**

MARG elegant attractive affectionate lady who enjoys many varied interests WLTM genuine male 50-60yrs for mutual indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408511**

ALEX 35, very attractive, slim, blonde, caring sensitive single mum, likes meals in/out, nice pubs, WLTM similar male/dad to love and care for. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408503**

25YR old very lonely unloved Asian female seeking true love, must be very discreet, enjoy good nights out and able to accommodate cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408249**

CHRIS 39yr old attractive well built sporty lady looking for tall, happy, well built male to enjoy adult companionship, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407935**

LUCY truly wonderful brunette who really loves life, seeking sincere male for true friendship with a little romance thrown in for good measure. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407457**

KATIE slim racy female, likes cars, horses, dogs looking for tall experienced male who knows how to make me happy and please me. Daytime meets preferable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407045**

LIZ 24 attractive blonde, green eyes, size 14, likes golf, pubs, comedy, holidays, WLTM professional well built male for romance, tlc and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 408303**

HI I am Sally a single 28yr old female, pretty, size 8-10 with a GSOH and fun to be with looking for similar lonely male for mutual companionship, dates and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 407951**

man seeking

BERNARD 63, brown hair/eyes, seeking lady for soul mate, romance and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409883**

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ATTRACTIVE 35yr old male, seeks lady for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3692 Box No: 409769**

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Wildcats pounce to down Basingstoke

BASINGSTOKE Bison suffered a shock setback in their EPL title quest at the weekend.

Doug Sheppard's men went down 5-2 on home ice to mid-tabled Swindon Wildcats, surrendering the top spot in the table in the process.

Manchester Phoenix, swept aside with ease by Bison two weeks ago, are now in pole position with a four-point advantage.

Bison found themselves 1-0 down within six minutes, thanks to a Henri Sandvik effort.

However, Sheppard's men rallied and normality seemed to be restored when Miroslav Vantroba netted five minutes into the second period.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

But Sandvik restored the Wildcats' lead almost instantly after converting on a powerplay, and Floyd Taylor grabbed a third for Swindon shortly afterwards.

Vantroba pulled one back straight away for the hosts to complete an exhilarating few minutes.

And the visitors impressively held Shepard's men at bay in the third period, and added gloss to the victory with two more goals of their own.

Jan Kostal pounced on a loose puck at 48:49, before Sandvik completed his hat-trick nine minutes from time.

They are currently second in the EPL with 70 points from 50 games. Phoenix are on 74 from the same number of encounters. Despite the setback in the league, Bison looked odds-on to triumph in the second leg of their EPL Cup final.

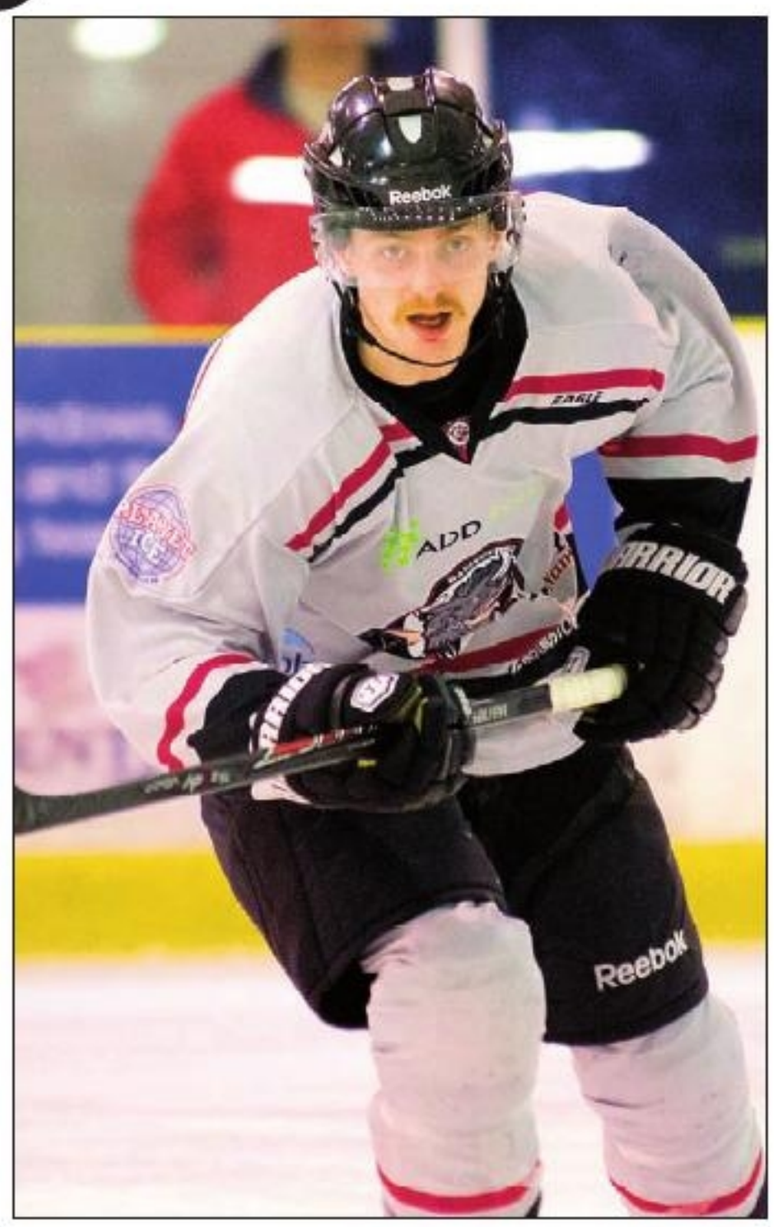
They hold a 4-1 advantage against Milton Keynes Lightning before last night's game at Basingstoke Arena, which took place after the Observer went to press.

Andy Melachrino bagged the first goal for the Bison at 4:02, assisted by Michael Wales, but the Lightning levelled at 5:32 as Tom Carlon scored, assisted by Blaz Emersic and Stanislav Lascek.

The Bison took control in the second period, as Vantroba blasted home on the powerplay from Joe Greener and Tomas Karpov assists at 22:12.

Melachrino added his second goal of the game at 32:45, banging in a rebound from a Ciaran Long shot.

Long himself scored the Bison fourth goal at 35:08 from Greener and Nicky Chinn assists.



· Ciaran Long (Picture by Grant King (5holephotography.co.uk))

Decisive win for 'Stoke

BASINGSTOKE RFC eased their relegation fears with a thumping win over National League Three London and South East bottom side Barking on Saturday.

James Croker's side ran out 64-12 winners to record their seventh win of the season, and their first since triumphing over Thurrock on January 11.

It leaves the Down Grange club 11th in the division with 40 points from 21 matches, nine points above the bottom three (in ascending order, Barking, Thurrock and Barnes).

They ran in 10 tries overall to secure a comprehensive bonus-point victory.

Tim Richards (2), Ryan Davis, Tim Coghlan, Freddie Gleadowe, Jobi Kochanowski (2), Matt Guilfoyle, Glenn Magee and David Byett all crossed for the home side.

The only slight blot on an impressive day for 'Stoke was finishing the match with 14 men – Chris Kiernan being shown a yellow card following a scuffle after 'Stoke's last try of the day. Croker's men have another winnable game this weekend, a trip to Orpington to face Westcombe Park.

Rose falls away on final day after a resurgent third round display

NORTH Hampshire golfer Justin Rose dropped away in the final few holes of the Cadillac Championships, a dip which cost him a top-five finish.

The world number seven had a disastrous final eight holes, a sequence including three double bogeys, ending the final round on six over par, meaning he could only manage a tie for 34th place.

In the end, he was 10 shots behind eventual winner – American Patrick Reed.

Basingstoke's sports personality of the year, named recently after his 2013 US Open victory, carded two over par on the first day, before fading further to minus five after the second day's play.

However, he gained five shots after a brilliant third round, firing six birdies in the space of seven holes, leaving him four shots off the lead.

But he could not capitalise on this dramatic turnaround in the final round of play, firing shots into the bunker twice and also finding the water.

Rose is back in action this weekend, competing in the Valspar Championship in Florida.

Sport Bites

Argent is the hero for Hartley

A SAM Argent brace was the difference between the sides as Ben Dillon's Hartley Wintney defeated Raynes Park Vale 2-0 on Tuesday.

The Row are on an impressive run of form, having held Epsom and Ewell to a thrilling 4-4 draw last Thursday, before getting the better of Mole Valley SCR on Saturday, running out 4-1 winners.

Hartley are 10th in the league with 40 points from 25 games.

Whitchurch out after cup defeat

WHITCHURCH United failed to make the final of the Sydenhams League Cup semi final on Tuesday night, going down to a shock defeat at Petersfield.

Jim Macey's men went down 3-2 against the Wessex League One promotion-chasers.

However, the Jam Boys battled to an impressive draw against Wessex Premier promotion hopefuls Newport (Isle of Wight) FC on Saturday.

Luke Walker's penalty was enough to give Whitchurch a deserved point.

Tadley march on with another win

TADLEY Calleva's impressive recent form continued on Tuesday with a 3-1 win at Pewsey Vale.

Goals from Callum Bush, Brett Denham and substitute James Tennant were enough to give Tadley the three points.

This result followed an impressive battling goalless draw against high-flying Petersfield on Saturday.

Danny Dolan's men are currently seventh in the Wessex Division One, with 20 points from 32 games.

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Inside: Wildcats pounce to down Basingstoke | Rose falls away on final day after a resurgent third round display

Basingstoke suffer Eastbourne defeat in fifth game in 11 days

A BRIDGE TOO FAR FOR TOWN

BASINGSTOKE Town's hectic fixture schedule appeared to finally catch up with them on Tuesday night, with Jason Bristow's injury-depleted side losing 2-1 at home to Eastbourne.

The Dragons took the lead against their play-off rivals after Louie Soares headed home.

However, two quick second-half goals from Ollie Rowe and Elvis Hammond ensured the points went back to East Sussex.

It gives the visitors a shot in the arm in their drive for promotion, with the Dragons suffering a dent in theirs.

Town, playing their fifth game in 11 days, were without first-team regulars Manny Williams, Jordace Holder-Spooner, Shaun McAuley, Neil Barrett, Simon Dunn and skipper Wes Daly for Tuesday night's clash.

Basingstoke stay 10th in the Skrill South with 41 points from 29 games.

However, they will still be hopeful of finishing in the top five places in the division – Weston-super-Mare, who occupy the final play-off spot, are just seven ahead of the Dragons, having played three games more.

By **James Booker**
news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Tuesday's defeat came on the back of a series of impressive displays by Bristow's side, notably a 3-0 win at Farnborough on Saturday.

Williams gave town an early lead, before David Ray grabbed the second shortly before half-time.

And Williams slotted home his second and his team's third from the penalty spot with 10 minutes to go, after Adam Green was felled by Josh Huggins.

Bristow's men have a full-up schedule between now and the end of the season, with midweek fixtures punctuating each weekend clash from now until April 26 (an away trip to Staines Town).

Saturday see them travel to in-form Staines, who harbour promotion ambitions of their own, before ending March with four home games on the spin.

Tonbridge Angels, Havant and Waterlooville, Concord Rangers and Dorchester Town are all in Basingstoke in the next two weeks.

· David Ray took over captaincy from Wes Daly on Tuesday night (Picture by Les Chase)

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